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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8198
INFO AMCONSUL ADANA PRIORITY
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S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 05 ANKARA 007811

S/CT FOR REAP

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/14/2011

TAGS: [PTER](#)

SUBJECT: TURKEY: 2001 ANNUAL TERRORISM REPORT

REF: STATE 198912

OVERVIEW

[1](#)1. (U) CLASSIFIED BY A/DCM SCOTT MARCIEL FOR REASONS: 1.5 (B) AND (D).

[1](#)2. (U) FIGHTING DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM HAS LONG BEEN A TOP PRIORITY FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF TURKEY (GOT). SINCE THE MID-1960S, THE U.S. DESIGNATED TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS

[1](#)3. (U) ON OCTOBER 8, 1997, THE SECRETARY OF STATE NAMED THE SEPARATIST KURDISTAN WORKERS' PARTY (PKK) AND THE MARXIST-LENINIST REVOLUTIONARY PEOPLE'S PARTY/FRONT (DHKP/C, FORMERLY KNOWN AS REVOLUTIONARY LEFT (DEV-SOL)), MAKING THEM SUBJECT TO THE ANTITEF MARXIST-LENINIST

[1](#)4. (U) THE MAIN RADICAL-LEFT TERROR ORGANIZATION, DHKP-C, CONDUCTS SMALL-SCALE OPERATIONS AGAINST TURKS AND FOREIGNERS ALIKE (ARMED ATTACKS ON UNIFORMED POLICE, SUICIDE AND OTHER BOMBINGS, ASSASSINATIC PIPEBOMB ATTACK ON A MCDONALD'S IN ISTANBUL APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT BY RADICAL LEFTISTS, THOUGH NO GROUP HAS CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FC USUALLY IN CERTAIN PARTS OF CENTRAL AND EASTERN ANATOLIA.

RADICAL ISLAMIST

[1](#)5. (U) IN TERMS OF CAPABILITIES AND FOLLOWERS, THE FUNDAMENTALIST "TURKISH HIZBULLAH" POSES THE GREATEST THREAT OF ALL RADICAL ISLAMIST GROUPS IN TURKEY. IT STAGED A SPECTACULAR JANUARY 2001 AME SHUNNED CONFRONTATION WITH AUTHORITIES IN FAVOR OF BATTLING RIVALS, LARGELY THE PKK AND ANOTHER RIVAL ISLAMIST FACTION. BEFORE THE OKKAN ASSASS EASTERN RAIDER'S FRONT (IBDA-C), FEDERAL ISLAMIC STATE OF ANATOLIA (KAPLANCILAR), SELAM GROUP, ISLAMIC MOVEMENT ORGANIZATION (IHO), AND THE JERUSALEM WARRIORS.

SEPARATIST

[1](#)6. (U) THE PKK REPRESENTS THE LARGEST SEPARATIST TERRORIST GROUP IN TURKEY, THOUGH ITS CAPABILITY TO OPERATE HAS BEEN DRASTICALLY REDUCED THAN INCARCERATED IN IMRALI PRISON NEAR ISTANBUL, THE PKK NOW LARGELY ABIDES BY A SEPTEMBER 1, 1999 SELF-PROCLAIMED CEASEFIRE. SMALL PKK COMBAT FORM SUPPRESSED TO THE POINT THAT LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS, RATHER THAN THE MILITARY, OVERSEE MOST OPERATIONS AND INVESTIGATIONS. FOUR PROVINCES (I

PRO-CHECHEN TERRORISM

[1](#)7. (U) A GROUP OF 13 PRO-CHECHEN TURKISH CITIZENS SEIZED THE SWISS HOTEL IN ISTANBUL ON APRIL 22, 2001 AND HELD 150 HOSTAGES, INCLUDING 37 AMERICAN CITIZENS, FOR APPROXIMATELY 12 HOURS UNTIL THEY SURRENDERED WITHOUT INCIDENT. THE TERROR GROUP STAGED THE RAID SECURITY COURT UNDER A VARIETY OF CHARGES, THOUGH NOT UNDER TURKEY'S TOUGH ANTI-TERROR LAW. THE LEADER OF THE HOSTAGE TAKERS, MUHAMMED TOKCAN, CONVICTED FOR THE INCIDENT, THOUGH AGAIN NOT UNDER THE ANTI-TERROR LAW. LARGE NUMBERS OF TURKS, MANY WITH ROOTS IN THE CAUCASUS, ARE SYMPATHETI

[1](#)8. (U) THE CAPITALIZED TITLES BELOW CORRESPOND TO REFTEL QUESTIONS.

RESPONSE OF THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM (C)

[1](#)9. (U) STATE SECURITY COURTS (DGM) IN EIGHT PROVINCES, WITH JURISDICTION FOR ALL CRIMES THAT FALL WITHIN THE PURVIEW OF THE ANTI-TERROR LAW, 1 MULTIPLE ON-GOING INVESTIGATIONS AND TRIALS. AVERAGE TRIAL TIMES RUN MORE THAN A YEAR, AND DEFENDANTS ARE USUALLY INCARCERATED DURING THEIR TRI

[1](#)10. (U) OPENED IN JULY 2000 IN DIYARBAKIR STATE SECURITY COURT, THE MAIN HIZBULLAH TRIAL CONTINUES. TWENTY INDIVIDUALS, INCLUDING TWO TOP HIZBULLAH LEADERS, ARE CHARGED WITH 156 MURDERS. THE TRIAL OF 17 JERUSALEM WARRIORS SUSPECTS, CHARGED WITH 22 MU RIGHTS (ECHR). IN JANUARY 2000, PRIME MINISTER BULENT ECEVIT DECIDED NOT TO SUBMIT OALAN'S DEATH SENTENCE TO THE PARLIAMENT FOR APPROVAL, PENI

EXTRADITION OF SUSPECTED TERRORISTS (D/E)

[1](#)11. (U) IN 2001, THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY DID NOT SEEK THE EXTRADITION OF ANY SUSPECTS FROM THE UNITED STATES ON TERROR-RELATED CHARGES, NOR DID THE UNITED STATES SEEK THE EXTRADITION OF SUCH SUSPECTS FROM TURKEY. IN THE PAST, TURKEY HAS FACED DIFFICULTY I TURKEY SINCE 1984 DESPITE THE FACT THAT SCORES OF CONVICTED TERRORISTS, INCLUDING PKK LEADER ABDULLAH OALAN, HAVE RECEIVED DEATH SENTENCES.

[1](#)12. (U) MOST RECENTLY, BELGIUM HAS REFUSED TO EXTRADITE FERYA ERDAL, A MEMBER OF DHKP/C ACCUSED IN THE JANUARY 1996 SLAYING OF PROMINENT BUSIN IN BELGIUM AND INITIALLY CHARGED WITH MINOR WEAPONS VIOLATIONS. IN 2001, HOWEVER, CITING THE EUROPEAN CONVENTION ON TERRORISM, A BRUSSELS COURT RULED THAT ERDAL COULD BE TRIED FOR MURDER UNDER BE

RESPONSES OTHER THAN PROSECUTION (F)

[1](#)13. (U) PRESIDENT SEZER, PRME MINISTER ECEVIT, FOREIGN MINISTER CEM, AND CHIEF OF THE GENERAL STAFF HUSEYIN KIVIRIKOGLU HAVE REPEATEDLY AND STRONGLY DENOUNCED TERRORISM DURING 2001. THESE STATEMENTS ONLY INCREASED IN VOLUME AND IMPORTANCE IN THE WAKE C

[1](#)14. (U) AFTER THE APRIL 22 SEIZURE OF THE SWISS HOTEL, WHERE PRO-CHECHEN TURKISH MILITANTS HELD 150 HOSTAGES, INCLUDING 37 AMERICAN CITIZENS,

MAJOR COUNTERTERRORISM EFFORTS BY THE GOT (G)

[1](#)15. (U) ON ALL FRONTS, THE GOVERNMENT OF TURKEY CONTINUED AGGRESSIVE COUNTER-TERRORISM EFFORTS IN 2001. THE POLICE CONTINUED THEIR RELENTLESS DETENTIONS THROUGH NOVEMBER. SULHADIN URUK, A LEADING HIZBULLAH MILITANT, WAS KILLED IN A SEPTEMBER RAID. A DECEMBER OPERATION NETTED SUSPECTS

[1](#)16. (U) POLICE HAVE ALSO SUCCESSFULLY WORKED TO DISRUPT AND UNCOVER DHKP/C CELLS. IN ADDITION, THE DECEMBER 2000 "OPERATION RETURN TO LIFE" HP DEATHS IN THE OPERATION MAY HAVE RESULTED FROM THE USE OF EXCESSIVE FORCE.

GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR TERRORISM (H)

[1](#)17. (U) THE GOT CONSISTENTLY AND STRONGLY OPPOSES BOTH DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM. TURKEY DOES NOT VIEW ITS MAINTENANCE OF DIPLOMATIC OR ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL RELATIONS WITH CUBA, IRAN, IRAQ

SUPPORT STATEMENTS FOR TERRORIST COUNTRIES (I)

[1](#)18. (U) THE GOT MADE NO PUBLIC STATEMENTS IN 2000 IN SUPPORT OF TERRORIST-SUPPORTING COUNTRIES ON TERRORISM ISSUES.

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN ATTITUDES TOWARDS TERRORISM (J)

[1](#)19. (U) THE EVENTS OF SEPTEMBER 11 HARDENED GOT DETERMINATION TO FIGHT TERRORISM, BOTH INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC. THIS HEIGHTENED WILL WAS M2 FREEDOM. IN THE WAKE OF THE WORLD TRADE CENTER BOMBINGS, THE GOT HAS STEPPED UP PRESSURE FOR THE EU TO ADOPT TOUGHER MEASURES AGAINST TURKISH I

USG COUNTERTERRORISM EFFORTS AND INITIATIVE WITH GOT (K)

¶20. (U) TURKISH SUPPORT IN THE WAKE OF SEPTEMBER 11
UNDERScoreD THE GOT'S COMMITTED POLICY ON FIGHTING TERROR, BOTH DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL. IN THE FACE OF STRONG PUBLIC OPPOSITION, PARLIAMENT
SEPTEMBER 11, THE TURKISH NATIONAL POLICE (TNP) HAS CONTINUED TO PROVIDED EXCELLENT PROTECTION OF US DIPLOMATIC AND MILITARY FACILITIES THROUgH

¶21. (U) IN RESPONSE TO THE PRESIDENT'S EXECUTIVE ORDER ASKING FOREIGN COUNTRIES TO FREEZE TERRORIST-RELATED FINANCIAL ASSETS, THE GOT FORMED A
THIS EFFORT HAS RESULTED SO FAR IN FREEZING ABOUT USD 2
MILLION IN FINANCIAL ASSETS IN TURKEY OWNED BY AN INDIVIDUAL ON THE EXECUTIVE ORDER (NO. 13224) LIST OF TERRORIST FINANCIERS. THE GOT IS REVIEW

(INFORMATION FOR THE REPORT'S CLASSIFIED ANNEX)

¶22. (S) THE TURKISH MILITARY HAS ALSO OFFERED THE USE OF AN ADDITIONAL AIRBASE TO LIGHTEN THE LOAD ON INCIRLIK AFB AND EASED FLIGHT RESTRICTI

--OFFERED TWO KC-135 REFUELING TANKERS;
--CSAR IN TU/ONV INTELLIGENCE SUPPORT AND MEDICAL SUPPORT PLANNING;
--AGREE TO STRIP ESM UNITS FROM NEW HELICOPTERS FOR USE BY US FORCES;
--BLANKET OVERFLIGHT AND LANDING FOR ALL AMC A/C (CLEARANCE INCLUDES A/C AND HAZMAT AT ZERO LEAD TIME AND MINIMUM NOTIFICATION WHERE ESSENTIAL);
--USE OF AIRBASES TO INCLUDE: FUEL, LOGISTICAL SUPPORT AND SUPPLY, STATIONING AIRCRAFT CREW AND NECESSARY EQUIPMENT;
--4 LNOS AT CENTCOM, 1 AT EUCOM, 1 IN AFGHANISTAN;
--FULLY COMPLIANT: WASSENAAR, AUSTRALIA GROUPS, MISSILE
TECHNOLOGY AND CONTROL, NUCLEAR SUPPLIERS GROUP,
NONPROLIFERATION REGIMES;
--AUTHORIZED THE DELIVERY OF LETHAL MUNITIONS (ALONG WITH FOOD AND BLANKETS) TO THE AFGHAN RESISTANCE OUT OF INCIRLIK AFB.

¶23. (S) IN GENERAL, TURKEY HAS BEEN COOPERATIVE IN
WATCHLISTING, ARRESTING, DETAINING, QUESTIONING, AND
DISRUPTING SOME SUSPECTED TERRORISTS ON BEHALF OF THE UNITED STATES. THE GOT HAS ALSO PROVED HELPFUL IN TRACING AND TRACKING INDIVIDUALS BELIEV
RENDITION TO OTHER COUNTRIES.

COOPERATION-INVESTIGATION/PROSECUTION (L)

(INFORMATION FOR THE REPORT'S CLASSIFIED ANNEX)

¶24. (C) THE MUTUAL LEGAL ASSISTANCE TREATY BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND TURKEY, WHICH ENTERED INTO FORCE IN JANUARY 1981, GOVERNS INVESTIGATI
UNANSWERED FOR OVER THREE YEARS. IN 2001, THE US DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE SUCCESSFULLY FORWARDED AN MLAT REQUEST TO INTERVIEW A SUSPECTED MEMBER C

¶25. (U) OVERALL, IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS, THE GOT HAS WORKED CLOSELY WITH THE USG IN THE APPREHENSION, CONVICTION, AND PUNISHMENT OF THOSE RESI
ASSASSINATION OF USAF SSGT VICTOR MARVICK IN ANKARA. THE TRIAL OF THE FOUR , WHO ARE ALLEGEDLY MEMBERS OF THE JERUSALEM WARRIORS, IS CONTINUING

COOPERATION-PREVENTION (M)

(INFORMATION FOR THE REPORT'S CLASSIFIED ANNEX)

¶26. (C) PURSUANT TO AN MLAT REQUEST, IN SEPTEMBER 2001 RSO AND LEGAT INTERVIEWED RUSTU AYTUFAN, AN ALLEGED MEMBER OF THE JERUSALEM WARRIORS, F
AYTUFAN REFUSED TO GRANT AN INTERVIEW FOR FEAR THAT HIS STATEMENTS COULD BE USED AGAINST HIM IN A PENDING TRIAL FOR SEVERAL POLITICALLY-MOTIVAT

PEARSON